WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

receiving status information concerning a size and location of a data packet;

receiving statistical information concerning a bus condition; and

storing the status information and the statistical information on a storage device using a single write procedure.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the data packets from the data bus.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising monitoring the status of the bus and generating the statistical information.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising generating control information which specifies the storage location for each data packet.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising storing the control information on the storage device.

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising storing each data packet on the storage device at the storage location specified by the control information.

1   7.   The method of claim 5 further comprising retrieving the

2   data packets stored on the storage device.

1   8.   The method of claim 5 further comprising retrieving the

2   status information stored on the storage device.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 further comprising monitoring the

2   data packets, generating the status information about the data

3   packets, and providing the status information to the method.

1 10. A statistics reporting process comprising:

2   a status information process for receiving status

3 information concerning a data packet;

4   a statistics information process for receiving

5 statistical information concerning a bus condition; and

6   a unified write process for storing said status

7 information and said statistical information on a storage

8 device using a single write procedure.

1 11. The statistics reporting process of claim 10 further

2 comprising an Input/Output (I/O) controller connected to a

3 data bus; wherein said I/O controller receives from said data

4 bus said data packets and said I/O controller monitors the

5 status of said bus and generates said statistical information.

1 12. The statistics reporting process of claim 11 further

2 comprising a control information write process for receiving

3 control information which specifies a storage location where

4 each said data packet is to be stored and storing said control

5 information on said storage device.

1 13. The statistics reporting process of claim 12 further

2 comprising a device driver process for generating said control

3 information and providing it to said control information write

4 process.

1   14. The statistics reporting process of claim 13 further

2   comprising a packet write process for storing each said data

3   packet on said storage device at said storage location

4   specified by said control information.

1   15. The statistics reporting process of claim 14 further

2   comprising:

3   a first communication bus for interfacing said

4   device driver process and said statistics reporting

5   process;

6   wherein said device driver process provides said

7   control information to said control information write

8   process via said first communication bus.

1   16. The statistics reporting process of claim 15 wherein said

2   device driver process includes a packet retrieval process for

3   retrieving said data packets stored on said storage device via

4   said first communication bus.

1   17. The statistics reporting process of claim 15 wherein said

2   device driver process includes a status retrieval process for

3   retrieving said status information stored on said storage

4   device via said first communication bus.

1   18. The statistics reporting process of claim 14 further

2   comprising a second communication bus for interfacing said I/O

3   controller and said statistics reporting process.

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1   19.   The statistics reporting process of claim 18 wherein said

2   I/O controller includes a statistical information transmission

3   process for providing said statistical information to said

4   statistics information process via said second communication

5   bus.

1   20.   The statistics reporting process of claim 18 wherein said

2   I/O controller includes a data transmission process for

3   providing said data packets to said packet write process via

4   said second communication bus.

1   21.   The statistics reporting process of claim 18 wherein said

2   I/O controller includes a status transmission process for

3   monitoring said data packets, generating said status

4   information concerning the size and condition of said data

5   packets, and providing said status information to said status

6   information process via said second communication bus.

1   22.   The statistics reporting process of claim 10 wherein said

2   storage device is a system memory.

1   23.   The statistics reporting process of claim 22 wherein said

2   system memory includes a Read Only Memory (ROM) and said

3   statistics reporting process resides on said ROM.

1   24.   The statistics reporting process of claim 10 wherein said

2   storage device includes a dedicated memory area for storing

3   said statistical information, said control information, and

4   said status information.

1   25. The statistics reporting process of claim 24 wherein said

2   dedicated memory area includes:

3   a control information storage area for contiguously

4   storing said control information, and

5   a status/statistical information storage area for

6   contiguously storing said status information and said

7   statistical information;

8   wherein said unified write process stores said

9   status information and said statistical information using

10   a single write procedure.

1   26. A computer program product residing on a computer

2   readable medium having a plurality of instructions stored

3   thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that

4   processor to:

5   receive status information concerning the size and

6   location of the individual data packets;

7   receive statistical information concerning various bus

8   conditions; and

9   store the status information and the statistical

10   information on a storage device using a single write

11   procedure.

1   27. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said

2   computer readable medium is a read-only memory.

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1   28. A statistics reporting system comprising:

2   an Input/Output (I/O) controller connected to a

3   distributed computing network; wherein said I/O

4   controller receives data packets from said network,

5   monitors the status of said network and generates

6   statistical information concerning said network's

7   condition;

8   a statistics reporting process comprising:

9   a status information process for receiving

10   status information concerning a data packet;

11   a statistics information process for receiving

12   said statistical information; and

13   a unified write process for storing said status

14   information and said statistical information on a

15   storage device using a single write procedure; and

16   a central processing unit (CPU) for executing said

17   statistics reporting process which resides on a Read Only

18   Memory.

1   29. The statistics reporting system of claim 28 wherein said

2   statistics reporting process further includes:

3   a control information write process for receiving

4   control information which specifies a storage location

5   where each said data packet is to be stored and storing

6   said control information on said storage device; and

7   a device driver process for generating said control

8   information and providing it to said control information

9   write process.

1   30. The statistics reporting system of claim 29 further

2   comprising:

3   a first communication bus for interfacing said

4   device driver process and said statistics reporting

5   process; and

6   a second communication bus for interfacing said I/O

7   controller and said statistics reporting process.